STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

It is made apparent according to the amendment to Claims 1, 7 and 8 that first to third areas are formed on a selection screen and search results is displayed on the second area in accordance with a display order designated in the third area.

"Mamoru HARADA, Flood of Home Music Servers Using HDDs, Nikkei Electronics, No. 763, February 14, 2000, pp. 63-70" (hereinafter, referred to as Cited Document 1) discloses content search making use of GUI.

Japanese Published Patent Application (KOKAI) 2002-14989 (hereinafter, referred to as Cited Document 2) discloses a technique for searching a multimedia document having a classified element selected by a user as an attribute making use of a navigation tree having a hierarchical structure.

Japanese Published Patent Application (KOKAI) 2001-331184 (hereinafter, referred to as Cited Document 3) discloses a technique for displaying related information of music or an artist thereof while playing back the music.

However, none of Cited Documents 1-3 disclose how to display the search results, that is, the configuration of the present invention according to Claims 1, 7 and 8, for displaying the search results in accordance with the display order designated in the third area.

Accordingly, it is possible for the user to enables designating a display order of the search results, however, the inventions disclosed in Cited Documents 1-3 cannot realize such an advantage. This is also applicable in a case of combinations of the inventions of Cited Documents 1-3.

It is noted that the amendments to Claims 1, 7 and 8 are supported by descriptions in the Japanese Specification lines 15-22, page 20, lines 26-27, page 24 and lines 20-25, page 25.

CLAIMS

1. (amended) An information processing apparatus for searching for predetermined content and controlling an
5   output of said content, characterized by having:

display control means that displays a selection screen for said content in which metadata as data affixed to said content is disposed, said selection screen characterized by comprising at least a first area in
10   which the metadata for designating an information acquisition range is arranged, a second area to be used for displaying metadata used as a search criterion and a search result, and a third area to be used for designating a display order of a list of search results,
15   wherein said search results are displayed in accordance with the display order designated in said third area and said content is selected in said second area;

acquiring means that, when predetermined one of said metadata as said search criterion is selected in
20   said second area on said selection screen displayed by said display control means and when predetermined metadata for designating said information acquisition range is selected in said first area, acquires information on other content having same metadata as said
25   selected metadata as said search criterion, in a range of said metadata for designating said information acquisition range; and

output means that outputs said other content, in response to an instruction to output said other content
30   selected in said second area on said selection screen.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by further having:

    storing means that stores said metadata selected from said selection screen, and

5   characterized in that, when said information processing apparatus is activated, said acquiring means acquires information on said other content having same metadata as said metadata stored in said storing means.

10   3. (cancelled)

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by further having:

    detecting means for detecting a selection of said

15   metadata, and

    characterized in that said detecting means detects a selection of said metadata in response to a motion of a cursor displayed on said selection screen.

20   5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said acquiring means acquires information on said other content from an information managing apparatus connected via a network.

25   6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that when said information processing apparatus is activated, said acquiring means acquires information on other content having same metadata as said metadata recorded in storing means of

30   said information managing apparatus.

7. (amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for searching for predetermined content and controlling an output of said content, characterized by including:

5   a display control step of displaying a selection screen for said content in which metadata as data affixed to said content is disposed, said selection screen having at least a first area in which the metadata for designating an information acquisition range is arranged,

10 a second area to be used for displaying metadata used as a search criterion and a search result, and a third area to be used for designating a display order of a list of search results, and characterized in that said search results are displayed in accordance with the display

15 order designated in said third area and said content is selected in said second area;

     an acquiring step of, when predetermined one of said metadata as said search criterion is selected in said second area on said selection screen displayed in

20 said display control step and when predetermined metadata for designating said information acquisition range is selected in said first area, acquiring information on other content having same metadata as said selected metadata as said search criterion, in a range of said

25 metadata for designating said information acquisition range; and

     an output step of outputting said other content in response to an instruction to output said other content selected in said second area on said selection screen.

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8. (amended) A program for making a computer search for

predetermined content and control an output of said
content, characterized by including:

a display control step of displaying a selection
screen for said content in which metadata as data affixed

5   to said content is disposed, said selection screen having
at least a first area in which the metadata for
designating an information acquisition range is arranged,
a second area to be used for displaying metadata used as
a search criterion and a search result, and a third area

10   to be used for designating a display order of a list of
search results, and characterized in that said search
results are displayed in accordance with the display
order designated in said third area and said content is
selected in said second area;

15   an acquiring step of, when predetermined one of
said metadata as said search criterion is selected in
said second area on said selection screen displayed in
said display control step and when predetermined metadata
for designating said information acquisition range is

20   selected in said first area, acquiring information on
other content having same metadata as said selected
metadata as said search criterion, in a range of said
metadata for designating said information acquisition
range; and

25   an output step of outputting said other content in
response to an instruction to output said other content
selected in said second area on said selection screen.